

AT A MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ON APRIL 10, 2013 IN THE BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Rice, Chair, called the meeting to order.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

Mrs. Hopkins established the presence of a quorum.

Present: Bryan Rice, Chair
 Joel Donahue, Vice-Chair
 Robert Miller, Member
 Bryan Katz, Member
 John Tuttle, Member
 Chris Tuck, Board of Supervisors Liaison
 Dari Jenkins, Planning & Zoning Administrator
 Brea Hopkins, Development Planner
 Steven Sandy, Planning Director

Absent: Cindy W. Disney, Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On a motion by Mr. Donahue, and seconded by Mr. Miller, and unanimously carried the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

On a motion Mr. Miller, and seconded by Mr. Donahue, and unanimously carried the consent agenda was approved.

PUBLIC ADDRESS:

Mr. Rice opened the public address; however, there being no speakers the public address was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING:

None presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

None presented.

WORKSESSION:

On a motion by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mr. Katz and unanimously carried the Planning Commission entered into worksession.

Tourism Plan Review

Mr. Sandy introduced Mrs. Lisa Bleakley, Tourism Director.

Mrs. Bleakley reviewed the draft strategic tourism plan. The projected period for the plan is 2-3 years. The local universities help drive tourism in this area. Other travelers to the area include Blue Ridge Parkway users, business travelers, athletes, people related to filming activities, etc. In order to promote tourism in the area and increase revenues from tourism the Towns and County formed a tourism board and hired a director to begin a tourism program. For development of the plan a large group of people were invited to participate in information gathering sessions. That group was divided into smaller groups for input and evaluation of tourism in the county. The input was used to create specific goals and objectives to promote the area. She reviewed the goals of the next 3 years. Committees will be formed to help achieve the goals outlined in the plan.

Mixed Beverage Report

Mr. Sandy introduced Graham Owen, Planning Intern, who has been working on a report to address the projected impact of mixed beverage authorization at the I81 interchanges. He is a graduate student at Virginia Tech.

Mr. Owen stated there has been an interest in encouraging development along the I81 interchanges at exits 109 and 128. Rezoning requests have been approved at those interchanges; however, development has not occurred. The Towns have had a mixed beverage license for several years; however, the county has not moved forward to allow liquor by the drink until recently. The state legislation approved an amendment to the code to allow mixed beverage licenses at the two interchanges. He reviewed maps of the area and properties that would be impacted by the legislation. Mr. Owen reviewed projected restaurant sales and tax income from potential restaurants locating in the area. Conservative estimates (85% of national average) show a potential of \$594,466 in additional tax revenue for Montgomery County.

Mr. Katz commended Mr. Owen on his work. One thing that was very interesting was the difference in projected sales between the two exits. He stated that it may be helpful to include some additional planning considerations for the exits.

Mr. Donahue stated the topography for the two exits is also very different and may impact the type of development.

Comprehensive Plan Transportation Chapter Review

Mr. Sandy introduced JP Bhullar, Planning Intern, who has been working on amendments to the transportation chapter of the comprehensive plan.

Ms. Bhullar reviewed the state code regarding the update required to the transportation plan. The plan must be submitted to VDOT for review. The project began in October 2012 and the draft plan has been prepared for review. Information was divided in accordance with state, regional and local improvements. Plans for state level include Six Year Improvement Plan, VTrans, VA Surface Transportation Plan, and Governor McDonnell's 2013 Transportation Funding and Reform Package. Regional improvements include 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, 2035 Long Range Rural Plan, Regional Transit Study, Bikeway, Walkway and Blueway Plan, Transit Development Plan, Village Transportation Links Plan, Freight Study, Livability Initiative: Transportation Goals, and Regional Airport Updates. Local improvement plans include the Route 8 study, the Route 11/460 study, Route 177 Corridor Study, Route 114 Study, Safe Routes to School Plans, Rural Plan, Rustic roads, Scenic Byways and Wilderness Road, Bicycle Plan, and the Huckleberry Trail. The next phase for the transportation chapter amendment is to continue draft updates which is scheduled for completion the end of April 2013. At that time the plan will be sent to VDOT for review.

Mr. Katz stated he was impressed with the amount of information presented. The only comment regarding the information is the Route 11/460 road designation may be in conflict with another plan so verify the route designation.

Mr. Sandy stated the designation may have been revised.

2012 Annual Report

Mr. Sandy presented the 2012 Annual Report. He reviewed major projects, applications, subdivisions, GIS activities, etc.

Mr. Miller asked about the status of the cemetery project.

Mr. Sandy stated the GIS staff were continually working on the project and were determining the best way to release the information to the public.

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Tuttle and unanimously carried the Planning Commission exited into worksession.

Mr. Rice asked if the Commission would like to make a motion regarding the annual report which was presented during worksession.

On a motion by Mr. Katz, seconded by Mr. Donahue and unanimously carried the Planning Commission approved the annual report as presented.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Board of Supervisors: No report.

Agriculture & Forestal District: No report.

Blacksburg Planning Commission: No report.

Christiansburg Planning Commission: No report.

Economic Development Committee: Mr. Tuttle stated the committee toured the new courthouse.

Public Service Authority: Mr. Donahue stated the Town of Christiansburg has not acted on the Joinder agreement.

Parks & Recreation: No report.

Radford Planning Commission: Mr. Miller stated there was a lengthy discussion on the subdivision ordinance and comprehensive plan.

School Board: Mr. Katz stated the last day of school will be May 31st . There is an initiative from the Governor’s office regarding additional STEM funding.

Tourism Council: No report.

Planning Director’s Report: Mr. Sandy stated information had been distributed regarding the Route 8 and Route 11/460 meetings. He asked Commissioners to advise staff if they were planning to attend the Planning Commissioners training offered by the NRV PDC or the Legal Seminar held by CPEAV.

Mr. Katz announced that he had completed his Planning Commission certification.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Chairman

Secretary

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